

Date: Tue, 14 Sep 93 04:30:13 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #1091
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Tue, 14 Sep 93 Volume 93 : Issue 1091

Today's Topics:

 Newsline 839 - 9/12/93

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Mon, 13 Sep 1993 03:07:00 GMT
From: elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!avdms8.msfc.nasa.gov!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!destroyer!
nntp.cs.ubc.ca!alberta!nebulus!ve6mgs!usenet@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: Newsline 839 - 9/12/93
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

```
*****
*
*      * * ***** *      * ***** *      ***** *      * ***** *
*      ** * *      *      * *      *      *      ** * *      *
*      * * * ***      * ** *      *** *      *      * * * ***
*      * ** *      * ** *      * *      *      *      ** *
*      *      ***** * *      ***** ***** *      * *****
*
*
*      *****      *      ***** ***** ***
*      *      * * * *      *      *      *
*      ***** ***** *      *      *      *
*      * * *      * *      *      *      *
*      *      *      * ***** ***** ***
*
*****
```

The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. The electronic version of newslines is posted on this CBBS twice monthly. For current information updates, please call (213) 462-0008, (805) 296-2407, (407) 259-4479, (708) 289-0423, (513) 275-9991, (718) 353-2801, (407) 965-1234 or (206) 368-3969. To provide stories and information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

Check with your local amateur radio club to see if NEWSLINE can be heard weekly on the air in your area.

Articles may be reproduced if printed in their entirety and credit is given to AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE as being the source.

For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

Thank You
NEWSLINE

Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU DJ0QN and
many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

[839]

DIRTY WORDS ON THE HAM BANDS

A high ranking FCC official says that the courts are keeping hams who use dirty words on the air. Ralph Haller, N4RH, who heads up the FCC's Private Radio Bureau is just as concerned as you are about the proliferation of vulgarity on the ham bands, but he says that it is the legal system that has tied the Commissions hands.

Imagine that you're a police officer. You spot someone committing a crime and decide to make an arrest. But a prosecutor says a conviction is unlikely because of how the law can be interpreted by the courts. As a result, there's little you can do. That is essentially the position FCC finds itself

in when it comes to cleaning up the ham bands. Ralph Haller sez Commission efforts to fight indecency have not been very successful.

"I've tried several times to take something that we thought would be good transcript of something that was on the air. We simply do not have a good track record of being able to build a case that was air tight enough that we could get a conviction." Ralph Haller, N4RH, FCC Private Radio Bureau Chief.

It's not that FCC lacks good examples of indecency. Haller describes some of the cases the Commission has tried to prosecute as particularly egregious. But courts--ever mindful of the Constitution--are hesitant to limit free speech.

"We certainly can't go beyond what the courts have said." says Ralph Haller, N4RH, FCC Private Radio Bureau Chief.

Congress wants FCC to more tightly control indecency on the broadcast airwaves. Haller sez that could open the way for new indecency rules affecting the amateur service. At least until then, trashmouths on the ham bands seemingly stand just beyond the Commission's reach.

The FCC may have its hands tied by the courts, but Haller says that the agency is trying to do what it can.

HOWARD STERN BROADCASTS FINED

While the FCC may not be doing much to take potty-mouth hams off the air, they are enforcing the prohibitions against broadcast indecency. Five stations that carry shock-jock Howard Stern have been issued heavy fines.

Four Infinity Broadcasting Corporation owned radio stations have again been fined \$500,000 for broadcasting indecent comments by personality Howard Stern. The FCC said the latest infractions occurred between November 10th of 1992 and January 13 1993. Since then, the commission said, Infinity has taken steps to keep indecency off the air during times when such language is prohibited.

The fines of \$125,000 apiece were against WXRK-FM in New York, WYSP-FM in Philadelphia, WJFK-FM in Manassas, Va., and WJFK-AM in Baltimore. The FCC also fined independent broadcaster KFBI-FM of Pahrump, Nevada, \$73,750 for carrying the same Stern broadcasts.

Stern's show is syndicated by Infinity, which already had been fined \$600,000 for previous broadcasts. All of the stations issued fines were also given 30 days to respond to the latest charges.

Most observers believe that it will eventually be the United States Supreme Court that will be forced decide what Stern and others can and cannot say over the airwaves.

POLICE JAMMER FOUND

A Manchester Connecticut man who was caught and convicted of interfering with public service radio communications back in 1990 is once again facing the same charges. Ironically he has been busted again thanks to the same ham radio operator who nailed him the first time.

Thirty-eight year old John D. Bertrand is out on bond after having been charged with four counts each of criminal mischief and of interfering with police.

Three years ago Bertrand was placed on probation after plea-bargaining on two criminal counts of interference. He had been located by two-way radio technician Bruce Marcus WA1NXG who T-hunted Bertrand.

When police began experiencing interference last April, they once again called in Marcus. According to newspaper accounts WA1NXG again used his talents as an expert fox-hunter to track down the source of the interference. And you guessed it, he found that Bertrand was the alleged source of the interfering signal.

VEC UPSET ABOUT FREE NOVICE TESTS

The ARRL says that it will not charge applicants for Novice tests. This even though the W5YI VEC has filed a complaint with the FCC alleging that the League's VEC operation is in violation of the rules because it refuses to charge applicants for these tests.

But Fred Maia W5YI who operates the VEC bearing his callsign claims that its a matter of uniformity. That all VEC's who use what is called the annual method of figuring reimbursement are required to charge an examination fee for every test it gives, including Novice exams. The ARRL says that it plans to continue its policy of administering Novice tests free of charge because it believes that this policy is consistent with an FCC tradition established back in the 1950's. This, as a way of making it easy for youngsters to get entry level licenses.

The League's President, George Wilson, W40YI says that the whole thing is nothing more than one of the ironies that keeps ham radio politics interesting. Wilson notes that VEC's have always had the latitude to set their own fees. He adds -- and we quote -- "Frankly, we see no compelling Federal interest in whether or not a class of nine year olds ought to be charged for taking an entry level ham radio exam."

But Maia and his W5YI VEC operation see it very differently.

In his September 1st issue of his W5YI Report newsletter Maia says that the potential financial benefit to the League resulting from its policy is too serious to be ignored. He says that free examinations when all other VEC's charge, attract applicants who are the potential purchasers of examination preparation materials. Maia believes that the purchasing decisions of these people may be unduly influenced by their choice of VEC's.

Don't look for this one to get settled by the FCC. Looking at it from afar, the bottom line appears to be one based purely on business concerns. Our feeling is that this confrontation is defiantly headed to court.

PRICE INCREASE ON JAPANESE GOODS

The price that you pay for ham gear, and for just about everything else manufactured in the Orient is about to go up. This is because the United States Dollar is dropping in value against the Japanese Yen on international money markets.

You have probably heard news reports about this, but never realized exactly what it meant. It means that the television set, camera, VCR or ham radio station that you want is going to cost more in days to come. Some money analysts say it's going to cost a lot more.

Right now, the value of the dollar versus the yen is still above 110 to 1. That means on a good trading day one United States dollar will buy 110 Japanese yen. But only a few years ago the dollar bought close to 150 yen meaning that products produced in Japan were a lot cheaper to purchase.

Now, money market analysts are saying that the exchange rate is going to drop once again. That over the next few months the rate might go to 80 yen for a dollar. The real pessimists are predicting a fall to an exchange rate in the mid 60's. What this translates out for you is higher prices. Radically higher prices if the pessimists are correct.

But what about the price of items from other countries in the Orient like Korea and Taiwan? Well, without getting into a long dissertation on how international money trading works, let's just say that the currencies of most Pacific Rim nations are heavily intertwined. And as a result, the prices on items imported from those nations will be going up as well.

AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS CEASES PUBLICATION

The nation's only twin language ham magazine has gone away with the announcement Amateur Communications magazine, formerly

known as Radioscan has ceased publication after a four-year run. It's Miami based publisher cited lack of advertising revenues for its decision to fold Amateur Communications at this time. Communications Publishing says that it is offering former readers of Amateur Communications some of its other publications to fill out subscription time. Amateur Communications Magazine was very unique because it was the only ham radio publication available in both Spanish and English language versions.

IARU MEETING HELD

The executive committee of the International Amateur Radio Union met in Quito, Ecuador on August 7th and 8th. Items discussed included finances, high frequency band planning, AMSAT matters, regulatory issues and plans for upcoming IARU conferences.

RADIO AMATEURS of CANADA NATIONAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD

The newly formed Radio Amateurs of Canada has scheduled its first national convention for July 29th to the 31st in Calgary. The RAC has also issued a call for papers to be presented at the convention's technical symposium. Topics that will be considered for presentation include high frequency, VHF and UHF operations, packet radio, AMTOR, RTTY EME and AMSAT related sessions.

Those interested in presenting papers or just taking part in the festivities can contact VE6BLI at 55-51551 Range Road number 212 A, Sherwood Park Alberta, Canada T8B-1B2.

OSCAR 20 SURVEY REQUESTED

At the request of the Japan Amateur Radio League, Steve Ford, WB8IMY is conducting an informal survey of OSCAR 20 users. At the present time, the satellite operates a packet BBS in Mode JD every day of the week except Wednesdays. On most Wednesdays, it switches to analog Mode JA for roughly 24 hours.

The JARL controllers would like to know if amateurs prefer the schedule as it is, or if they would like more JA time each week.

Please send your comments Steve so that he can pass them back to the JARL. Steve can be reached at ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut 06111.

AO-21 UPDATE

Peter Guelzow, DB20S, reports that the Oscar 21 ham satellite's RUDAK 2 transponder is now operating continuously in the digital FM Mode only. That there is no telemetry and no DigiVoice for the moment.

Peter says that nothing is wrong with RUDAK. He says that Telemetry and DigiVoice will resume later this month. Peter adds that October will see a special DigiVoice Experiment using RUDAK 2.

GENIE HAM RADIO NET

The General Electric Consumer Information Service or GENie Ham Radio Roundtable meets on Sundays at 3pm Eastern Time on 14.287 MHz. You do not have to be a GENie subscriber to take part and all Ham Radio Operators are welcome to join. The alternate frequency is 21.387 MHz which starts 3:30pm Eastern Time.

The GENie Ham Radio Roundtable stays at 3pm Eastern time year round and does not change with daylight savings time. With Newsline now active on GENie, don't be surprised to hear some of our people taking part in the net operation as well.

ORDERING A PIZZA VIA HAM RADIO

As most of you know, late in the day on September 13th, Part 97.113 of the FCC's Amateur Service Rules governing business communications will change. Section 97.113 has become known in ham radio circles as the so-called pizza ordering rule. This is because FCC officials often used the analogy that this rules change would make it legal to order a pizza over a ham radio autopatch.

Obviously, everyone will have his or her own interpretation of the new 97.113 but here is at least one fact. The new regulation gives you the option of doing personal business over amateur radio, but it does not force anyone else to provide you with a way to do it. If the repeater owner says that you cannot order a pizza -- or anything else over his autopatch he is 100% correct. The FCC says that the service provider and not the repeater user will have the final say.

* * * Newsline Copyright 1993 all rights are reserved. * * *

- - - - -

Posted on r.r.i via...

Big Steve from Crossband.
ter Hobbist. *

Enie: S.COLETTI2 PRODIGY: BJJM02A FIDO: Big Steve 1:278/712 *
, NY 10002*

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #1091
